

# The Athenian Mercury.

Saturday, August 4. 1695.

Quest. 1. **I** Sent you a Question sometime since, it was to know whether we Europeans could make use of those Boats which are us'd in Greenland, and some other places, figur'd almost like a Weavers-shuttle, which we have describ'd in Grews rarities of Gretham Col. Fol. 364. I saw one of these Boats about 6 years ago in Zealand: I have a great mind to try to make one of 'em, and whether it beent possible for an European to sail and row in 'em in the same manner with the first Inventers. Pray let me know whether you know of any that has try'd it before me.

Ans. There are several of these Boats in England, and other places near us, tho we never heard of any in our part of the world so bold as to endeavor to row back in one of 'em, to the place from whence they came, Greenland generally, not Greenland, where there are no Inhabitants besides Bears and some other wild-Beasts. Besides, Dr. Grew's account, there's a History of one of these Greenlanders, with the picture of his Boat and way of Fishing at large in *Pitt Alas*. The additions to Camden in the Description of Scotland speak of it, as a not very uncommon thing for these people, (they call 'em *Fin-men*;) to be cast in their Boats on the North of Scotland. "In the year 82, as we are here told, one was seen, sometimes sailing, sometimes rowing in his little Boat at the South End of the Isles of *Eda*, most of the people of the Isle flocking to see him, and when they mann'd out a Boat to see if they could take him, he got away from 'em all; and in the year 84, another was seen from *Wesstra*. Tho another of 'em it seems did not escape so well, his Boat being taken and sent from *Orkney* to *Edinburgh*, where 'tis to be seen in the *Philistians Hall*, with the one *Oar* that he rows with, and the dart wherewith he Fishes. The same we have in the *Trinity-House* at *Hull*, which with its owner was taken by one *Andrew Barker*. And if they querist could make the like, and sail with 'em after he has done, it might perhaps be of some use, and we believe he'd be the first of our Countrymen who had ever try'd the Experiment.

Quest. 2. Whether an High Diet of Flesh, Fowl, and Fish, with high and delicious Sawces, be not Incentives to lewdness, and effeminate those men that give themselves up to 'em: And whether an Herbal, and Radical Diet, and such other innocent meats as our forefathers liv'd on, does not make men, more masculine, as well as assist Thinking and meditation, and raise the mind to a more noble apprehension of things?

Ans. There's no doubt but Extravagance in any thing is inconvenient and dangerous, and 'twere well if the *Weekly Bills* could show us all the mischief which high Feeding does to the World, which there's no doubt reaches a great deal farther, in private persons as well as Families, and Nations; There being a natural reason that the more abstemious men are, the better Souldiers they shou'd be, especially now 'tis grown so great a part of the Art of War to out-fast one another. But after all, we can't think that eating Flesh moderately does effeminate men, the contrary appearing to be true by our own Nation, who proportionably eat the most of that sort of Diet of any Nation in Europe, and yet are not reputed Gluttons, and all the world knows we are no Cowards; and we must go a great way for any of our Progenitors, who fed on nothing but Roots and Herbs, as high at least as the other side of the Flood before we can find 'em. The more common fault of our Souldiery being over-drinking, rather than over-eating, whereby they render themselves hot and extravagant,

and careless of giving advantages to the Enemy. As for the damage which a too plentiful Diet is to the Intellect, clouding and oppressing it as well as the Body, there's none can question it who does but observe the difference between himself betimes in the morning, and after a full Dinner, to that degree that for any Intellectual operation he'll scarce appear the same man. But all this is not sufficient to perswade a wise man to fall a Grazing presently, and stuff himself with nothing but Pulse and Salads, which would be we doubt, very disagreeable to our English Bodys, which have been accustom'd even from our Infancy to a much more substantial Diet.

Quest. 3. A Gentleman, lately dy'd worth 4000*l*. which by his own Industry he acquir'd in few years. He was universally belov'd and of a very affable Temper, full of Justice and Honour, as well as a firm Friend, admirable in his Station, and well skill'd in most Arts and Sciences; and as he liv'd like a Gentleman, he desir'd his old Friends shou'd accompany him to the Grave, as well as carry from his Funeral some marks of his memory with 'em. Notwithstanding, which his Executrix bury'd him without Escutcheons, Rings, or Gloves, and even without the common office for the Dead, in the Pew. His Friends beg your opinion, whether this were handsomly done or no?

Ans. 'Twas thriftilly done, there's no doubt to be made on't, and for the handsomness of it, let any body judge, if 'twas as 'tis here represented.

Quest. 4. Pray what think you of Stonehenge in Salisbury-Plain! Are the stones Natural, or Artificial? If Natural, how came they there, and to what purpose were they set together in that place? If Artificial, whether the Art of making such be now lost?

Ans. The querist must not be angry if we acknowledge that all Athens together, han't as much Learning as Mr. Camden, who yet fairly owns in his description of this prodigious Pile, "that he's rather troubled that the Founders of this noble monument can't be found out, then able to give any account of it. All therefore which must be expected from us concerning it, having our selves never seen it, is to give some Description of it from the best Authors, and compare the most probable Hypotheses concerning it, taking the common Liberty of mankind, to express our own Judgments which of those conjectures we think most agreeable to Truth. "Tis situated on a rising ground, environ'd with a deep Trench, still appearing, about 30 foot broad. It had 3 Entrances, at each of which was rais'd two stones, Gate-wise, and against 'em, in the inside two others, less then the former. The work consists of 4 Circles of Stones (Mr. Camden is mistaken, who says there are about 3) the outmost about 100 Foot Diamiter, the stones whereof, 4 yards in height, two in Breadth, and one in thickness. Two yards and an half within this great circle is one of lesser stones. Three yards farther the principal part of the work, made up of two Rows of stones. The outer, of great upright stones, twenty foot high, 2 yards broad, and a yard in thickness, coupl'd at the top by large stones like *Architraves*, 7 foot long, and half as thick, within this a range of lesser Pyramidal stones, six Foot high. In the middle was formerly a stone lying toward the East, 4 Foot Broad, and 6 long. This for the Description.

Now for the Name: 'Tis certainly Saxon, that we mean by which 'tis commonly known, *stone-henge*, tho 'tis also pronounc'd *stone-hedge*, or *stone-edge*. The Vulgar say, from stones set an edge; If *stone-henge* be the true name, 'tis thought to make it, either from

Hang.



*Hanging-Stone*, for such the Cross stones appear; or rather from *Stone-hengist*, as 'tis written in ancient manuscripts, it being the general Tradition, both in Prose and Verse, that 'twas erected by *Ambrosius* as a monument of the Britains that were here treacherously slain by *Hengist*. This is generally agreed, that the Gaugher might lie at or near the place, as well as *Ambresbury*, (now commonly pronounced *Amesbury*) which none deny to have taken its name from our famous *Ambrosius*. But how the Britains were able at that time when involv'd in Wars, to erect such a prodigious pile, which carries no mark of Christianity in it, we believe 'tis impossible to resolve, unless we take in *Merlin*, and the help of his *Lubber Fiends*, as the Tradition is, to Traist the stones thither. That it was not built by the *Romans* appears from these reasons, because of its roughness, and rudeness, because there are no *Inscriptions*, or *Coin*, or *Urns* found near it, nor is it near any *Roman Station*, or *Fort*, or way: The *Brittish* have a name for it which perhaps may express more of its Original than is generally believ'd. They call it *Choir-Gaure*, or the *Gyants-dance*; and one would think no Hands but such as were beyond the extraordinary strength of nature, were able to erect 'em, and that we had *Gyants* formerly in *Britain*, is we think past dispute. This is certain, there are many *Circles of Stone*, much in the same form, tho without *Architraves*, in several other places of *England* and *Scotland*, to some of which the *Romans* were reach'd, nor cou'd they be *Davish*, because mention'd in writing some hundreds of years before ever the *Danes* were masters of any considerable part of the *Island*: Some have thought it a *burying place*, others a *Temple*, we believe it both, for the *Heathen Temples* were no other then *Busts*, as the *Fathers* often tell 'em; and the *Ashes* and *Bones* which have been here dig'd up, confirm the Conjecture. Nay, we are apt to believe it may have been a sort of a *Parliament* of the ancient *Britains*, a kind of a *Cathedral* to all their other *Temples*, and what if we shou'd find the very *Deitys* they worshipt yet remaining in it? And we are mistaken if the inmost *Range of Pyramids* be any other: For 'tis notorious that the very *Gods* of the ancient *Idolaters* were erected in the *Form* of *Pyramids* and *Obelisks*: And the famous stones at *Burrough-Brig* are also *Pyramidal*. And what if after all *stone hedge* shou'd be the true name, from an *hedge of stone*, (as well as *Stone-street*, *Stony-hurst*, and the like) It being certain that the old *Idol Temples* were made in this *Form*, and the story in *Beda* sufficiently famous, of *King Coys*'s breaking down the *hedge* of one of these *Idol Temples*: And now we are at *Conjectures*, what if we shou'd step a little further, just over to *Salisbury*, whose Name *Sorbiadunum*, has puzzled *Antiquaries* whence to derive it; what if it shou'd be, *quasi Subodunum*, from the *Service-Tree* or *shrub*, and its *English* name *Salisbury*, a like corruption of *Service-bury*, and its other *Latin* name *Sateria*, shou'd have the same original? The Reader is welcome to *laugh*, for most *Etymologies* are good for little else. For the stones, we believe 'em *natural*, being convinc'd by *Dr. Lister*'s Reasons. Tho' how they got 'em thither does not much concern us, since we are not to fetch 'em away again.

Quest. 3. *I have a Neighbour who daily affronts, and threatens to injure me, and is so abusive in his Tongue, that I can have no quiet for him; What course shall I take to silence him?*

Ans. If your reputation shou'd happen to be so well establish'd (or he so inconsiderable) that what he says can do you no real injury, forgive him so long till shame it self shall make him reform; but if his abusiveness be a disadvantage to you in your business, or any way lessens your good Name, first friendly admonish him of it, if that don't prevail, compel him to good manners.

The Gentleman that some time since sent to us to advise him concerning the *Mathematicks*, shall have his Request answer'd, if he'll send us his Name, and place of abode.

## Advertisements.

There is this week publisht a very particular account of the LIFE of the QUEEN, during her Residence in *Holland*, being—A COLLECTION of FUNERAL ORATIONS pronounc'd by publick Authority upon her Majesties Death, by *Dr. James Perizonius*, Professor of Eloquence, History and the *Greek Tongue*, in *Leyden*, *Dr. George Grevius*, Professor of Theology in *Utrecht*, and several other Learned men.—In this COLLECTION is inserted—That Excellent METHOD her Majesty observed in Reading the Holy Scriptures—The manner how she spent EVERY DAY in the week—Some extraordinary Instances of her conjugal fidelity.—Her Conference with the English Ambassadour at the *Hague*.—Many divine, moral and political expressions, as at several times, and on several occasions they were delivered by her.—With other Remarkable Passages in her LIFE and DEATH not hitherto made publick.—The whole attested by those Reverend and Honourable persons that attended upon her. Price 2 s. 6 d.—There is already publisht a FUNERAL ORATION upon the Queens Death, pronounc'd by publick Authority in the Hall of the most Illustrious States, upon the day of the Royal Obsequies, *March 5. 1695.* by the Learned *SPANHEIMIVS*, (who had frequent access to her Majesty whilst she lived in *Holland*). This is Printed in 4to, to bind up with the forementioned COLLECTION.

The Letter written by Sir *DUNCOMB COLCHESTER*, a little before his Death; containing his REMARKABLE PENITENCE (which Letter was read publicly by his order, in the Parish-Churches of *Michael-Dean* and *Westbury*) is now publisht, with other late Instances of that Nature. All which are annext to Mr. *TURNER*'s Essay upon the Works of Creation and Providence, lately publisht. To which ESSAY is added a *SCHEDULE* of the History of Remarkable Providences, (now preparing for the Press.) As also a large Specimen of that Work. Price bound 2s.—Both Printed for *John Dunton*, at the *Raven* in *Fleet-street*. And may also be had of *Edm. Richardson* near the *Poultry-Church*.

Those EXTRAORDINARY RELATIONS sent this Week from *Coventry*, relating to the Funeral of a Young Gentlewoman, &c. shall be inserted in the HISTORICAL ACCOUNT of PROVIDENCES now preparing for the Press by the Reverend Mr. *Turner* provided Mrs. *Cleyton*, &c. will send the Relations attested under her own hand.

Whereas PROPOSALS have been made for Printing by Subscription—An History of all the Remarkable Providences which have happened in this present Age, &c.—By *WILLIAM TURNER*, M. A. and Vicar of *Walberton* in *Stafford*; This is to give Notice, That those that expect any benefit by the said PROPOSALS, are desired to send in their First Payment, (viz. 15 s.) with all possible expedition, the first of September next, being the longest time allowed for taking in Subscriptions.—PROPOSALS and SPECIMENS, giving a full Account of this Work, may be had of the Undertaker, *John Dunton*, at the *Raven* in *Fleet-street*, as also of *Edm. Richardson*, near the *Poultry-Church*, and of most Bookellers in *London*, and the Country.